

NOTES

LYCIANTHES ASARIFOLIA (SOLANACEAE), NEW TO NORTH AMERICA — In November of 1989 a colony of *Lycianthes asarifolia* (Kunth & Bouché) Bitter, was discovered growing in City Park, New Orleans, Louisiana. The plants are stoloniferous, creeping herbs with sparsely shaggy-pubescent internodes to 7 cm long. The leaves are solitary at each node, the petioles slender, to 10 cm long, laterally pubescent or glabrous, the leaf blades cordate to reniform, to 9×8 cm, obtuse to rounded at apex, cordate-auriculate at base, glabrous to subciliate. The flowers are solitary at each node, the pedicels slender, 4–7 cm long, subglabrous, nodding at apex, subtended by a small auriculate bract at base. The calyx is cupular, to 4×5 mm at anthesis, ca. 10-costate, appressed-pubescent, 5-toothed or occasionally also with minute apiculations alternating with the teeth. The corolla is rotate-campanulate, the limb usually reflexed, 16–20 mm broad, 5-lobed, glabrous, white. The 5 stamens are equal, the anthers 2.5–3 mm long, apically dehiscent. The ovary is 1–2 mm in diameter, the style 5–6 mm long, slender, the stigma truncate to subcapitate.

The voucher collection is *Feibelman 107* (MO, NO, NY, US), comprising stems, leaves, and flowers taken from a colony covering roughly 450 sq. meters beneath *Quercus virginiana*. The colony appears to be expanding vegetatively, as no fruits have been seen at the City Park location or on plants propagated from cuttings. We surmise that the colony developed from a single introduction and is a self-sterile clone. The species is well adapted to mowing, and our plants withstood 72 hours of freezing temperatures (as low as 11° F) in 1989 without noticeable damage. *Lycianthes asarifolia* thus appears to be well adapted to the Gulf Coast climate, at least in shaded lawns, where it makes a vigorous and attractive ground-cover.

Lycianthes is a genus of 150–200 species, mostly of tropical America, but with a dozen or more species in Asia and the South Pacific. It is usually distinguished from *Solanum* by the 10-nerved calyx with 10 small teeth appearing as enations below the truncate apex, but the teeth are sometimes absent. A good discussion of generic characters is given by D'Arcy (Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 60: 631. 1973).

On account of its unusual habit, *Lycianthes asarifolia* was, with *L. repens* (Sprengel) Bitter, placed by Bitter (Abh. Nat. Ver. Bremen 24:422–426. 1920) in *Lycianthes* sect. *Asaropsis*. Both species are South American, *L.*

asarifolia reported from Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina, while *L. repens* is apparently restricted to southeastern Brazil. Bitter distinguished the more variable *L. asarifolia* from *L. repens* on the basis of its usually longer petioles, as well as larger calyces, anthers, and fruits, among other features of indument and flower color (corollas reported as pale blue to violet in *L. repens*).

Our plants clearly fall within Bitter's concept of *L. asarifolia*, and we have compared collections from Venezuela (*Alston* 6105, USF), Colombia (*Sneidern* 3121*b*, GH), Bolivia (*Steinbach* 6212, GH; *Rusby* 1875, GH; *Solomon* 13467, NY; *Nee* 35104, NY), and Brazil (*Dusen* 11315, GH). Under cultivation, our plants show considerable variability in pubescence as well as leaf blade shape and dimensions. Should the two species be united, the name *Lycianthes repens* (Sprengel) Bitter, based on *Boldoa repens* Sprengel [Syst. Veg. 1: 179. 1824] would have priority. An excellent illustration of *L. repens* (as *Solanum violaeifolium* Schott) can be found in Martius, Fl. Brasil. 10:52, tab. 4, fig. 44–46; tab. 12. 1846. A note with *Nee* 35104 states that the orange, rather pleasant-tasting fruits of "motojobo" are edible and made into preserves.

We thank Dr. M. Nee (NY) for invaluable assistance with the identification and nomenclature of this species, and Dr. M. Molvray (NO) for help with Bitter's German. The curators of GH, MO, NY, SMU, US, and USF searched their collections for North American records of *Lycianthes asarifolia*, or made other material available for our examination. — *Steven P. Darwin and Toby Feibelman, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118, U.S.A.*

PALIURUS SPINA-CHRISTI (RHAMNACEAE) NEW FOR NORTH AMERICA IN TEXAS — *Paliurus spina-christi* Miller, an Eurasian rhamnaceous shrub not previously reported as naturalized in North America, has been found growing on the Edwards Plateau of central Texas. The plant is known only from Gillespie County where it was apparently introduced ca. 100 years ago. It is well established along the flood plains of two creeks and the Pedernales River and has become a pernicious weed.

In 1986, a rancher brought to the attention of Gillespie County agricultural extension agent Duery Menzies the presence of an unusual spiny shrub that was invading his pastureland along Dittmar Creek 21 km west of Fredricksburg in Gillespie County. The plant was taken to Texas A&M University in College Station by Roger Landers, Range Specialist, Texas